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Message Text

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70
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 /071 W
---------- 129344
R 101219Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8242
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4364

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR BGEN GH SZ
SUBJ: BLAY-MIEZAH

REF: (A) ZURICH 379; (B) ACCRA 3496

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION REFTEL A.

2. GOVERNMENT-OWNED PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO AVOID ANY MENTION OF BLAY-MIEZAH. HOWEVER, SMALL, INDEPENDENT "PEOPLE'S EVENING NEWS" SPLASHED ARRIVAL STORY AND PICTURES IN JUNE 20 EDITION, WITH BLAY-MIEZAH STATEMENT THAT EXISTENCE OF 150 (SIC) MILLION DOLLARS HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY UBS. HE ALSO DENIED RUMORS MONEY WAS PART OF NKRUMAH'S FUNDS AND REASSERTED LAYMAN STORY.

3. ON JULY 4 "PEOPLE'S EVENING NEWS" HEADLINED OMAN GHANA TRUST HAD SIGNED CONTRACTS WORTH 160 (SIC) MILLION DOLLARS FOR ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT WITH SAI S.A. LUGANO OF SWITZERLAND AND EROMCO OF WEST GERMANY. PICTURE ACCOMPANYING IDENTIFIED RAINER KOHLER AND HERBERT MEHRTEDT AS SIGNING RESEPCTIVELY FOR EUROPEAN FIRMS. PICTURE ALSO DISPLAYED SMILING CAST OF
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NKRUMAH-PERIOD MINISTERS (SWANZY, AMOAKA-ATTA, EDUSEI) AND

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OTHERS OF THAT VINTAGE.

4. LOCAL BANKING SOURCES INDICATE PROMISED TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GHANA DURING FIRST WEEK OF JULY (NOT UNEXPECTEDLY) HAS NOT COME OFF. INTERNATIONAL BANKS (BARCLAYS AND STANDARD) HAVE WATCH NOTICES OUT ON BLAY-MIEZAH.

5.GOG NOW SEEMS TO BE ADOPTING WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE. SOME OFFICIALS REMAIN CONVINCED SUBSTANTIAL SUM EXISTS EVEN IF NOT FROM LAYMAN LEGACY. OTHER OFFICIALS (AND MANY IN PUBLIC) ASSUME STORY IN HOAX BUT ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO TAKE ANY STEPS BEYOND SILENCING OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED PRESS.
BLACK

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